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CROOK AND WILLINGTON

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Year Ended 31st December, 1955.



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health—G. A. MACGREGOR, M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—A. CUMMINGS, M.R.S.I., M.I.P.C.

Deputy Sanitary Inspector—

J. B. KELLY, D.P.A., (Dunelm.,) D.M.A., A.R.S.I.

To the Chairman and Members of
Crook and Willington U.D.C.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year under review has shown no difference, speaking broadly, from that of the previous year. The birth rate has continued to decline over the past six years and now stands at 13.05 per thousand of the population, a figure which is 1.95 per thousand less than the general birth rate for England and Wales for the same period. Still births have decreased to the extent of 1.15 per thousand births (live and still). The death rate, although slightly lower than the previous year in your area, is higher by 1.35 per thousand than the general death rate for England and Wales for the same period. The total number of live births registered in Crook and Willington was exactly the same number as the deaths (353).

Turning to infectious diseases, it is satisfactory to record that for the second year in succession there have been no cases of diphtheria in your area. but I would still like to point out that there is an insufficient number of people presenting themselves for immunisation against this disease, and until such times as they do, one cannot afford to take a complacent view of the situation. The number of cases of measles has increased by 225 and has been fairly widespread throughout Crook and Willington. Fortunately, the disease has shown no evidence of exceptional severity. Fewer cases of tuberculosis have been notified during the year and the number of deaths registered was 2 - one pulmonary and one non-pulmonary - compared with 1 in 1954.

It is pleasing to record the interest taken by the public in the Mass Radiography Unit and attendances have been satisfactory, although by no means optimal. In my report for 1954 I put forward to you the opinion that every employee of local government before he is employed, and at regular yearly intervals after

he is employed, should have an X-ray examination of his chest to ensure that the disease in its earlier form is detected. As I said before, the employee who contracts tuberculosis is crippled for some time and if he is under long treatment his absence from work may cause serious domestic and financial distress.

The maternity and child welfare clinics in your area continue to be well attended, especially that of Crook where the average attendance of children has risen satisfactorily, as also has the attendances of ante natal patients.

Your sanitary inspector and myself during the year continued regularly to make inspections of your houses and to make reports to your Council. The system which was adopted was that only in exceptional cases would people applying for a house be strongly recommended for one and your Council has been pleased to accept our special recommendations in these cases. In other cases, where our recommendations have been put forward by reason of disease and/or serious sanitary defects, we have recommended to your Council that they should be given additional weighting points in your Housing Points Scheme. Where we have merely reported on the housing applicants we have been satisfied that no priority should be given to them for re-housing.

A separate section of the Report, compiled by the Chief Sanitary Inspector deals with the general sanitary conditions in the area during the year under review.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal co-operation during the past year, sometimes under difficult circumstances.

I have the honour to be, ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

G. A. MACGREGOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Population (Registrar General's Estimate - Mid Year)			27,050
Area (In Acres)	...	...	15,476
Number of Inhabited Houses (Mid 1955)		...	8,687
Rateable Value (Mid 1955)	...	...	£115,638
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	£424

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	345	182	163
Illegitimate	8	5	3
	<hr/> 353 <hr/>	<hr/> 187 <hr/>	<hr/> 166 <hr/>
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	13.05
General Birth Rate (England and Wales) (Mid 1955)	...	...	15.0

STILL BIRTHS

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	6	3	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 6 <hr/>	<hr/> 3 <hr/>	<hr/> 3 <hr/>
Rate per 1,000 (live and still)	...	...	13.27

DEATHS

	Total	Males	Females
	353	192	161
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	13.05
Death Rate (England and Wales)	...	...	11.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	8	4	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 8 <hr/>	<hr/> 4 <hr/>	<hr/> 4 <hr/>

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	6	3	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 6 <hr/>	<hr/> 3 <hr/>	<hr/> 3 <hr/>

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000

live births	...	...	22.66
Infantile Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	...	...	24.9
Deaths from Cancer	...	...	56
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years)	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—

Table of Birth and Death Rates for the Past 6 Years

Year	Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate under one year	Birth Rate
1950	11.52	38.00	18.29
1951	13.52	65.98	14.32
1952	12.22	30.95	15.36
1953	12.54	33.08	15.50
1954	13.85	42.10	14.01
1955	13.05	22.66	13.05

CAUSES OF DEATHS

				Males	Females
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	..	1	0
2	Tuberculosis Other	..	...	0	1
3	Syphilitic Disease	...	.	0	0
4	Diphtheria	...	...	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	0	0
6	Meningococcal Infections	...	..	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	0	0
8	Measles	...	..	1	0
9	Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	...	..	1	1
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	7	3
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	12	2
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	0	6
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	..	...	0	2
14	Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	14	10
15	Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	...	...	0	0
16	Diabetes	...	...	0	0
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	31	40
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	...	.	37	18
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	3	5
20	Other Heart Disease	...	...	24	27
21	Other circulatory Disease	...	..	10	13
22	Influenza	...	...	1	2
23	Pneumonia	...	...	0	5
24	Bronchitis	...	...	11	7
25	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	...	...	9	1
26	Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	...	...	1	0
27	Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea	...	...	1	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	1	1
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	5	0
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	0	0
31	Congenital Malformations	...	...	0	1
32	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	13	11
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	2	1
34	All Other Accidents	...	...	4	3
35	Suicide	...	...	2	0
36	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	1	0
Total				192	161

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease :

	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Dysentery	3	2	—
Measles	373	2	1
Whooping Cough	62	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	6	3	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Tuberculosis	22	15	2
Pneumonia	3	1	5

The following Table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever during the past 6 years.

YEAR	DIPHTHERIA		SCARLET FEVER	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1950	6	1	55	—
1951	5	—	54	—
1952	4	1	43	—
1953	2	—	45	—
1954	—	—	16	—
1955	—	—	6	—

NOTIFIED DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1955

The following table gives the incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year.

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1 - 2 yrs.	3 - 4 yrs.	5 - 9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	3	1	2	—	—	—	6
Whooping Cough	7	20	15	18	1	1	—	—	—	62
Measles	18	74	92	186	1	2	—	—	—	373
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	3
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
under 5 years		-	-	-		-	-	-
5 to 14 years	3	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
15 to 24 years	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 44 years	4	4	-	1	-	-	-	1
45 to 64 years	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total ...	10	8	2	2	1	-	-	1

Number of Cases of Tuberculosis on Register at
31st December, 1955

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Cases
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
201	164	365	109	126	235	600

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS.

Year	New Cases				Deaths				No. on Register at end of Year										
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary								
	Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total								
1950	15	12	27	2	—	2	2	2	5	7	—	1	1	138	109	247	97	113	210
1951	10	4	14	2	—	2	2	9	3	12	1	—	1	139	110	249	98	113	211
1952	11	12	23	2	4	6	2	4	6	—	—	—	—	148	118	266	100	117	217
1953	8	7	15	3	5	8	4	3	7	1	—	1	1	152	122	274	102	122	224
1954	16	13	29	3	1	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	168	135	303	105	122	227
1955	10	8	18	2	2	4	1	—	1	—	1	1	1	201	164	365	109	126	235

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of your area for the year 1955.

My thanks are extended to the Staff of the Health Department for their assistance in making 1955 a year of satisfactory progress and to the Members of the Council for their support throughout the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

ARNOLD CUMMINGS,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT.

(1) WATER SUPPLY:

The Durham County Water Board are the principal suppliers of water in this area and the vast majority of houses in the area are connected to their mains. No houses are supplied by means of stand pipes but a few isolated farms and cottages are dependent upon well supplies. A typical analysis of a mains supply is as follows :-

Physical Examination

	Waskerley	Tunstall
Colour Hazen Units	28-75	40
Turbidity	Slight	Slight
Odour	None	None
pH Value	6.5 - 6.7	6.7

General Chemical Examination

	Parts per million	
Total Solids	50 - 100	120
Suspended Solids	Trace	Trace
Hardness as Ca CO ₃		
Carbonate hardness	Nil - 1.8	18.6
Non-carbonate hardness	35.6 - 67.6	50.0
Total Hardness	35.6 - 69.4	68.6
Chlorides as Cl	10.0 - 12.0	11.5
Nitrates as N	0.31 - 0.48	0.13
Free and Saline Ammonia as N	0.026 - 0.233	0.05
Albumoid Ammonia as N	0.073 - 0.135	0.08
Oxygen Absorbed		
4 hrs @ 27°C as O	3.05 - 9.25	5.86

There is no evidence of plumbo solvent action in the water supplied in the area.

During the year 18 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle. 2 of these samples were regarded as suspicious and 6 were unsatisfactory. The majority of these samples were taken from the house taps and well at Goodwell Field, Brancepeth.

Miscellaneous queries and complaints regarding water supply, including a complaint of excess chlorination of the water, were dealt with as they arose. The Durham County Water Board supplied this Department with all necessary information concerning the emergency measures which were taken because of the acute water shortage towards the end of the year.

(2) VISITS:

The following is a summary of the visits undertaken by Officers of the Department during the year in pursuit of their official duties:

(1) Housing (Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	1171 visits
(2) Housing (Overcrowding)	...	...	70 visits
(3) W.C. Conversions and defective Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	1097 visits
(4) Drainage	...	...	171 visits
(5) Water Supply	...	...	58 visits
(6) Food Premises	...	...	112 visits
(7) Shops Act	...	...	21 visits
(8) Slaughter Houses (including visits made when inspecting Meat)	...	...	1163 visits
(9) Tents, Vans, etc.	...	...	3 visits
(10) Factories and Workplaces	...	...	70 visits
(11) Keeping of Animals	...	...	4 visits
(12) Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	...	...	68 visits
(13) Smoke Nuisances	...	...	5 visits

(3) NUISANCES ETC.:

The following table shows the principal nuisances dealt with during the year by means of notices:

	No of Informal Notices served	No. of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied after notice
Public Health and Housing Acts	57	14	53
Defective Sanitary Conveniences	31	18	24
Drainage	11	3	12
Water Supply	5	—	5
Smoke Nuisances	3	—	3
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	6	—	6

(4) SCHOOLS:

Occasional inspections of Schools in the district were made in connection with sanitary accommodation and washing and canteen facilities. No nuisances were reported.

(5) CINEMAS AND PUBLIC HALLS:

Inspections of these premises were carried out during the year and appropriate action taken where defects occurred.

(6) SMOKE ABATEMENT:

Smoke pollution continues to cause little appreciable nuisance in this semi-rural area. Nuisances from burning rubbish and smoking chimneys have received attention as they have occurred.

(7) PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS:

During the 12 months ended 31st December, 1955, 687 dwellinghouses and 357 shops and agricultural properties were inspected. Out of these, 170 houses and 47 shops and other premises were found to be infested by rats and/or mice, and treatment was carried out accordingly. No charge is made for the treatment of domestic property but shops and agricultural hereditaments are treated on a cost plus supervision basis.

(8) HOUSING:

Housing inspections have again figured prominently in the number of visits made by the officers of the department. Preliminary work on the Council's Slum Clearance Programme was carried out.

So far as repair work is concerned, the majority of property owners have been willing to comply with notices of defects but in some cases a great deal of persuasion and interviewing has been necessary to achieve the desired result. Wherever the opportunity occurs efforts are made to persuade owners to convert their back to back properties into through houses and advice is given on the best methods of effecting the conversion. Various owners have consulted the department on the modernisation of their properties and the provision of desirable amenities.

Many visits have been made during the year to the premises of applicants for rehousing in connection with overcrowding, measurement of rooms, and standards of cleanliness.

(9) SHOPS AND FOOD PREMISES:

Numerous visits have been paid to shops and food preparing premises throughout the district. The standard of these premises is, on the whole, quite satisfactory and informal action has sufficed to deal with whatever complaints have arisen.

The following premises in the area are concerned with the manufacture and/or retailing of food:

174 Shops

2 Stalls

20 Restaurants, Schools' Kitchens, Hotel Kitchens and Canteens

11 Bakehouses

2 Food Factories

14 Premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or preserved etc., food

3 Premises for the manufacture and sale of ice cream

47 Milk Distributors

2 applications for licences to retail ice cream have been granted during the year. The total number of premises registered for this purpose is now 57.

25 applications for renewal licences to retail pasteurised milk were granted during the year, and no new licences were issued for the sale of this type of milk.

19 licences were also issued for the sale of sterilised milk, together with 3 Supplementary licences for the sale of milk.

(10) SLAUGHTERHOUSES:

Some indication of the extra work involved in meat inspection is given by the fact that 1,163 visits were made to such premises. 17 slaughterhouses were registered for the purpose of slaughtering and the state of cleanliness generally prevailing was satisfactory.

(11) FOOD ETC. CONDEMNED:

During the year, 4 tons, 6 cwt, 2 st. 7 lb. of fresh meat, and 2 tons, 15 cwt, 6 st. 9 lb. of miscellaneous tinned foods and loose provisions were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

(12) W. C. CONVERSIONS:

During the year, 299 conversions from ash closets to the water carriage system took place. The comparative figure for 1953 was 203 conversions and for 1954 was 127 conversions. The average cost of each conversion was in the region of £30 to £35.

(13) PUBLIC CLEANSING:

Figures are for the period 1/4/55 to 31/3/56.

Statistics:

Number of premises cleansed	...	...	9,043
Number of collections ...	...	...	705,354
Total Refuse collected ...	...	...	26,750 tons
Yield per domestic dwelling	...	...	2.7 tons
Average Haul to Tip ...	...	...	2 miles
Number of Tips ...	...	...	7
Number of Men Employed (average)	...	...	40
Number of Vehicles Employed	...	...	13

Costs:

	Collection		Disposal		Total	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	11	6	5	6	17	0
	£		£		£	
Net cost per 1,000 population	567		274		841	
Net cost per 1,000 premises	1,697		820		2,517	

The increasing number of premises given a twice weekly collection and the labour involved in clearing coal stones are reflected in the costs of the service.

Since the erection of the new salvage hut at West Roddymoor in June, 1955, almost 22 tons of salvage were despatched up to December, resulting in an income of £215 9s 7d. for the period.

(14) FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948 :

During the year 70 inspections of premises subject to the Factories Acts were made, principally in connection with sanitary accommodation. Informal action has sufficed to deal with 2 premises where defects existed.

